

Dealing with Pet Emergencies

- **Keep Calm!** Count to 10. Think first before you act.
If you find yourself panicking - breathe in to the count of 10, then out to the count of 10. Do this several times.
- **Keep Safe!** - Keep other people safe! Look after people before animals! Take care especially with accidents on the road, risk of drowning, electrocution, bites etc. Lift correctly!
Take extra care with large animals, big dogs, horses, cows etc. Frightened dogs and cats will bite; frightened horses will kick.
- **Get Help.** Shout "HELP!".
- **Phone the vet** - get someone who is calm to phone. Have a paper and pen ready to take down instructions and directions.
- **Take the animal to the vet** - where all the emergency equipment is. Don't expect the vet to come to you!
Get someone who is calm to drive you to the vet! Don't phone whilst you are driving. If your pet needs attention on the way STOP and sort out the problem before you drive on.

Top Tips

- **Think Positive!** - Most emergencies look worse than they are.
- **Road Accidents** - the most serious injuries are often internal i.e. you can't see them! Don't worry too much about skin damage, cuts and bruises etc. they can be stitched.
- **Bleeding** - stop spurting blood by direct finger pressure or at pressure points. Don't worry too much about blood that isn't pumping - it will often stop once an animal is calm.
- **Airway Obstruction** e.g. ball in the throat - can kill in just a few minutes. Remember you'll have a chance of removing a ball once a panicking dog has become unconscious.
- **Pet crying and howling** - don't be too distressed by an animal crying, most of the crying is caused by panic not pain - and it means the lungs are probably working OK.
- **Fits / Convulsions / Epilepsy** - Fits that stop in 5 min. are not dangerous. A fit that lasts more than 10min. is a true emergency.
- **Death** - accept that a pet hit full on by a car will probably die even if you get him to the vet. Try your best but don't blame yourself if he doesn't make it.

Be Prepared for Pet Emergencies

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- **Read "Dealing with Pet Emergencies" & "Top Tips"**
Learn how to handle an injured or distressed pet.
- **Be prepared** - get a Pet First Aid Book and some basic emergency equipment. Keep Vet phone numbers by your phone and on your mobile.
Find out how your vet's out-of-hours service works.
- **Be prepared for the cost** - get your pet insured, or, keep a few hundred pounds on one side for a pet emergency, or be prepared to take out a loan.
Vets do the vetting, they don't do the lending.

Useful Equipment

Rope, Lead, Muzzle (or learn how to make a tape muzzle), Blankets/Towels, Improvised stretchers.
Bandages, Scissors - learn how to bandage a dog's foot effectively. Pet Carrier/Cage
Pen & Paper. Vet's phone number. Torch (poss head torch)
Nursing Equipment: Comfortable bed - "Vetbed"
10ml Syringe, Rehydrating Fluid such as "Lectade"

Learn more about First Aid

Go to our website www.vet-healthcentre.co.uk and look in the News section for links to websites that will teach you about Pet First Aid.